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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula (I)

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
A \\
N \\
N \\
A
\end{array}$$
(I)

wherein A is a divalent, alicyclic or heterocyclic radical of the formula (a), (c) or (f)

(f)

wherein

 R_6 and R_7 independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1 to C_{25} alkyl

<u>X=0</u>

R₁₁ is hydrogen, and

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B is ortho-C₆-arylene group of the general formula (II), (III), (IV) or (V)

wherein C and D are an alicyclic or heterocyclic group;

R₁ is CN or is a 5- to 7-membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, and S, and R₂ and R₃ independently of one another are C₁-C₂₅-alkyl, C₅-C₁₂-cycloalkyl, C₆-C₂₄-aryl, OH, OR₄-or NR₄R₅, wherein R₄ and R₅ are identical or different and are hydrogen, C₁-C₂₅-alkyl, C₅-C₁₂-cycloalkyl, C₆-C₂₄-aryl unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 radicals halogen, R⁰, OR⁰, SR⁰, NH₂, NHR⁰, NR⁰₂, NO₂, COOH, COOR⁰, CONH₂, CONHR⁰, CONR⁰₂, CN, SO₃H, SO₂(OR⁰), SO₂R⁰, SO₂NHR⁰, SO₂NR⁰₂-a 5-to 7-membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, and S, or are a 5- to 7-membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, and S₇

R⁰-is-C₁-C₁₈-alkyl-or-C₆-C₂₄-aryl;

and B is unsubstituted or mono- to tetrasubstituted ortho-C₆-C₁₈ arylene.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen or C_1 to C_{18} -alkyl. A is a divalent alicyclic or heterocyclic radical of the formulae (a) to (g)

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where R_6 and R_7 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1 - C_{25} alkyl, C_6 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_6 - C_{24} aryl, C_1 - C_{25} alkyl(C_6 - C_{10} -aryl), a 5- to 7-membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S, -(CH₂)_n-COR₈- and --(CH₂)_m-OR₉, wherein R_8 is hydroxyl, amino, unsubstituted or mono- or polyhydroxyl- or -amino-substituted C_1 - C_{25} -alkoxy, C_1 - C_{25} alkylamino, di(C_1 - C_{25} -alkyl)amino, C_1 - C_{25} -alkyl(C_6 - C_{10} -aryl)amino, or C_2 - C_{24} -aryl)amino, di(C_6 - C_{24} -aryl)amino, C_1 - C_{25} -alkyl(C_6 - C_{10} -aryl)amino, or C_2 - C_2 -alkenyloxy, and R_9 is hydrogen or --CO-(C_1 - C_{25} -alkyl), and n and m independently of one another are an integer from 0 to 6, and wherein in R_6 , R_7 , R_8 , and R_9 , optionally a C-C unit is replaced by an ether unit C-O-C, X-is --O, -S-or -NR₁₀, wherein R_{10} has one of the definitions of R_6 ; Y is hydrogen, R_7 , OR_7 , SR_7 , NHCN or NR_7 , SR_7 , NR_7 , SR_7

 SO_2NHR_7 , $SO_2N(R_7)_2$ or $PO_2(OR_7)$.

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3. through 12 (Cancelled)